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✓ Latest release

Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees, casual workers, independent contractors, trade union membership, labour hire, job flexibility, job security

Reference period August 2025

Released 12/12/2025

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Key statistics

In August 2025:

- There were 2.4 million casual employees (19% of all employees, and 17% of all employed people).
- There were 1.1 million independent contractors (7.6% of all employed).
- 36% of employed people usually worked from home.
- Median employee earnings in main job was \$1,425 per week, up \$26 (1.9%) since August 2024.
- Median hourly earnings in main job was \$42.90 per hour, up \$2.90 since August 2024.

Upcoming changes to the Characteristics of Employment survey

As part of ABS plans to modernise the Labour Force Survey (LFS) (see [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey).) there will be changes to the way the labour supplementary surveys, including Characteristics of Employment, are conducted. This will include changes to the timing of collection, the reference periods that data are published in respect of, the content collected, and the range and timing of outputs produced.

The key changes to the model used to collect the LFS and supplementary surveys include:

- no longer collecting the LFS supplementary surveys in specific calendar months - currently collected in February (Participation, Jobs Search and Mobility), May (Education and Work), and August (Characteristics of Employment)
- collecting a new redesigned labour supplementary survey on a monthly basis from respondents in their last (of eight) months in the LFS (the 'outgoing' rotation group)
- no longer collecting additional LFS content in 'quarter months' (Feb, May, Aug and Dec) - with content currently collected quarterly moving to either the 'core' monthly LFS (e.g. industry and occupation) or the

new labour supplementary survey

The changes will be implemented progressively across 2026. As a result:

- August 2025 was the last time the Characteristics of Employment survey was conducted in its current form
- the upcoming Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey, scheduled for February 2026, will be the last conducted in its current form
- the 2025-26 Barriers and Incentives survey, which is collected in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS), will also be the last conducted in its current form

A redesigned labour supplementary survey is expected to commence in the 2nd half of 2026. This survey will combine and integrate content currently collected in:

- Characteristics of Employment
- Participation, Job Search and Mobility
- Barriers and Incentives (from MPHS)
- Casual Experience (from MPHS)
- the quarter month Labour Force Survey (that isn't moving to the monthly LFS)

Data from the new supplementary survey will be compiled and published on a calendar year basis. More information on the content and timing of the suite of outputs that will be published from the new supplementary survey will be provided in early 2026, however we expect a similar range of data as published across the current suite of releases would continue to be available.

Statistics from the August 2025 Characteristics of Employment survey are published in:

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/latest-release)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)

Data downloads

Employee earnings

Download all (135.75 MB)

Table 1 - Employee earnings, 1975-2025

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[927.04 KB]

[\(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/characteristics-employment-australia/aug-2025/63370_Table01.xlsx\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/characteristics-employment-australia/aug-2025/63370_Table01.xlsx)

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics

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[7.77 MB]

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Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

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[43.63 MB]

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Table 4a - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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[31.81 MB]

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Table 4b - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation (detailed)

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[12.97 MB]

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Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

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[25.12 MB]

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Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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Table 7 - Distribution of earnings, 1989-2025

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[7.48 MB]

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Earnings guide

To learn more about the earnings data collected by the ABS, refer to our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/) data.

Working arrangements

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Table 1 - Job flexibility and Job security

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Table 2 - Employees, OMIEs and OMUEs by demographic characteristics

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[11.8 MB]

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Table 3 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

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[4.17 MB]

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Table 4 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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Table 5 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work

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[1.56 MB]

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Table 6 - Employees on a fixed-term contract

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Table 7 - Casual employment by selected characteristics

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[3.08 MB]

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Table 8 - Casual employment by job characteristics

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[857.63 KB]

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Table 9 - Characteristics of Digital Platform Workers

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[40.46 KB]

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Table 10 - Casual experience

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Microdata and TableBuilder

August 2025 Characteristics of Employment data will be released in [Tablebuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder) and microdata in ABS [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) (as a supplementary file for the [Longitudinal Labour Force \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia) (LLFS) microdata) on 18 December 2025. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia).

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0.

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2025 \(/methodologies/characteristics-employment-australia-methodology/aug-2025\)](#)